

Roger,

I was able to pull your bills up online. I am very much in support of these very important pieces of legislation. If passed it will certainly open avenues for the small rural schools in Montana that are struggling just to survive. The makeup of our district at Monforton is difficult. We have high, moderate and low income housing in our district. Our head count is constantly fluctuating. As you well know, our state funding is based on head count two times throughout the year, but our teachers salaries, utilities etc. keep going up. We currently utilize volunteers for our Mentors for Monforton program and various reading groups for our students. This has had a very positive impact on our school. It would be huge to be able to utilize volunteers when appropriate to help free up dollars in the general fund.

I apologize, but I will not be able to attend today's hearings. These bills are a very important part of our education system and I wish that I would have been able to testify on your behalf. Please keep me posted as to further hearings on these bills or additional legislation that you will be introducing and I will try to attend.

Thanks for keeping me in mind. Good Luck!

Kris

(Kris Stiles, school board trustee)